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ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE SELECTMEN,

— AND —

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF WALPOLE, N. H.,

WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT,

INCLUDING ALSO,

REPORT OF TOWN LIBRARY, 1870-71.

BELLOWS FALLS. VT.:

PRINTED AT THE TIMES JOB OFFICE,
1871.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY



REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN OF WALPOLE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1871.

REPORT OF THE TOWN TREASURER FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1870.

RECEIPTS.

Taxes in hands of F. Watkins,	85 00
Taxes in hands of J. B. Russell,	3,845 50
Cash received from county,	304 87
Cash received for town bonds,	171 80
Cash received for Gates claim settled up,	1,669 00
Bonds sold for Walpole and Westminster bridge,	3,000 00
Savings Bank tax from State,	192 34
Railroad tax from State,	705 13
Literary fund from State,	127 02
Interest on taxes over due,	235 41
Taxes committed to C. Fisher,	22,965 94
Citizens of Walpole for bridge,	2,000 00
Town of Westminster and subscription,	4,212 66
Charles Ranstead of Baltimore, gift,	50 00
Order taken up by C. Fisher,	20 00
Floating orders March 1, 1871,	287 87—39,872 54

EXPENDITURES.

Balance due Treasurer March 1, 1870,	175 67
Floating orders March 1, 1870,	395 44
Paid county tax,	3,141 23
Paid State tax,	4,860 00
Taxes uncollected by C. Fisher March 1, 1871,	5,655 02
Taxes uncollected by J. B. Russell, March 1, 1871,	460 05
Orders given on Treasury for 1870,	25,135 39
Cash in Treasury	48 74—39,872 54

B. F. ALDRICH, Treasurer.

EXPENSE OF WALPOLE & WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

Bagley & Randall, wood contractor,	10,000	00
A. G. Mann, stone contractor,	2,077	60
John C. Brown, stone,	165	59
S. K. Cobb, "	4	00
Geo. H. Foster, "	10	55
Eben Burr, "	12	15
Alfred W. Burt, "	6	00
H. M. Wilcox, "	15	00
L. B. Holland, "	45	00
I. M. Graves, "	68	33
Geo. Foster, Westminster, stone,	2	00
J. W. Haywood, "	7	50
A. S. Watkins, "	2	00
W. A. Maynard, "	8	00
H. A. Hitchcock, sign boards,	3	75
Geo. R. Spencer, painting sign boards,	8	00
John Farnsworth, repairing toll house,	8	25
Charles Fisher,	38	60
2 windows for toll house,	3	60
A. H. Bellows,	19	63
A. W. Burt,	Building	105 19
Frederick Kilburn,		22 00
H. C. Lane,	Committee.	30 75
Nathan Fisher,		24 50
		<hr/>
		12,687 99
Less gift of Charles Ranstead, Baltimore Md.,	50	00—12,637 99
One third paid by town Westminster and sub- scription,	4,212	66
Two-thirds paid by Town of Walpole and subscription,	8,425	33—12,637 99
In addition to the above the Cheshire R. R. Co. freighted stone free of charge to the amount of	882	00

We the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing statement of bills, for purposes named, is correct, and that the respective amounts set against each town in settlement of same has been paid.

Walpole, Feb. 25, 1871.

HENRY C. LANE,	} Selectmen of Westminster.	CHA'S FISHER,	} Selectmen of Walpole.
NATHAN FISHER,		FRD'K WATKINS,	
		NEH'H ROYCE,	

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

Amount of orders given during the past year,	\$25,135 39
To Bagley & Randall, bridge builders,	10,000 00
A. G. Mann, bridge stone,	2,077 60
Bridge Committee and contingent expenses,	249 17
Stone contractors for crib and rubbling stone,	361 22
Town officers, for 1869,	751 25
Committee, funding debt for 1869,	39 55
Abatement of taxes 1868-9 and '70,	241 60
B. F. Aldrich, abatement of bank tax, 1866,	93 33
B. F. Aldrich, coupons and interest on debt,	2,316 92
Settlement and expense of law suits,	426 59
Damage by insufficiency of highways,	19 10
Town library,	150 00
Tomb and cemetery fences,	193 73
Printing Town Reports, stationery, revenue and postage stamps,	80 25
Team work,	80 75
Record of births and deaths,	9 75
Road scraper,	45 00
Wood for Town House,	3 75
Repairs on " " 1869,	28 86
Highways,	1,080 11
Bridges and highways,	1,560 32
Breaking roads 1869-70,	265 14
New road District No. 2,	133 80
Town pauper accounts,	655 57
County pauper accounts,	292 75
Schools and district taxes,	3,979 28—25,135 39

AMOUNT PAID FOR POOR.

TOWN PAUPERS.

Family of Otis L. Starkweather,	138 98
" Caleb Farnham,	50 00
" John Bundy,	114 02
" Rhoda A. Kenny,	90 57
" Charles Titus,	81 00
" Mrs. Hefflon,	181 00—655 57

COUNTY PAUPERS.

Amount of County bills Oct. 1869 to Oct. 1870, 314 62

Amount allowed by commissioners April and
Oct. 1870,

304 87

Cost of town for the year ending Oct. 20, 1870,

9 75

CEMETERY.

RECEIPTS.

For 1 lot sold Mrs. E. Darby,	10 00
“ “ “ Geo. H. Mellish,	10 00
For leaves sold B. P. Spaulding,	7 00
For grass sold Charles M. Russell,	7 00

EXPENDITURES.

For Charles M. Russell, mowing cemetery,	25 00
For Geo. Priest, raking leaves,	17 51
For H. A. Hitchcock, care of cemetery,	20 00

SCHOOL MONEY, 1870.

Amount raised by tax		3,000 00
“ “ “ dog tax,		82 00
Dis't. 1, No. scholars,	143,	Amount school money, 758 28
“ 2, “ “	61,	“ “ “ 301 05
“ 3, “ “	20,	“ “ “ 152 56
“ 4, “ “	50,	“ “ “ 261 21
“ 5, “ “	13,	“ “ “ 127 21
“ 6, “ “	15,	“ “ “ 134 45
“ 7, “ “	11,	“ “ “ 119 97
“ 8, “ “	13,	“ “ “ 127 20
“ 9, “ “	35,	“ “ “ 206 89
“ 10, “ “	33,	“ “ “ 199 64
“ 11, “ “	15,	“ “ “ 134 45
“ 12, “ “	36,	“ “ “ 210 51
“ 13, “ “	22,	“ “ “ 159 81
“ 14, “ “	30,	“ “ “ 188 77
No. of scholars,	497,	Amount school money, 3,082 00
Special tax, District No. 1,		734 81
Amount voted for each district,		75 00
Amount dog money each district,		5 12½
Amount money drawn by each scholar,		3 62½

The subscribers having examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Town Treasurer and Overseer of Poor, find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

GEO. A. BLAKE,
HENRY BURT,
JOSHUA B. CLARK, } Auditors.

TOWN DEBT.

Amount of town bonds,	36,000 00	
Amount of town notes,	3,000 00	—39,000

UNPAID BILLS.

Estimated town officers and other bills,	1,000 00	
Floating orders,	287 87	
Interest on debt since Jan. 1,	360 00	—1,647 87
		<u>40,647 87</u>

ASSETS.

Cash in treasury,	48 74	
Taxes assessed 1869,	460 05	
“ “ 1870,	5,655 02	
Estimate due from county,	150 00	—6,313 81
		<u>34,334 06</u>

APPROPRIATIONS, EXP'D 1870, EST'D FOR 1871.

Town paupers,	1000 00,	655 57,	700 00
County “	200 00,	9 75,	50 00
Highways,	650 00,	1,080 11,	1000 00
Bridges,	1,500 00	1,560 32,	800 00
Wal'e & West'r bridge,	6,000 00	6,425 33	
Town off's and con't ex's	1,500 00	1,834 72	1,500 00
Interest on debt,	2,260 00	2,316 92	2,260 00
Schools,	3,000 00	3,000 00	3,000 00
State tax,	4,860 00	4,860 00	4,860 00
County tax,	3,141 23	3,141 23	2,791 30
Bonds due,	3,000 00	3,000 00	3,000 00
Tomb and cemeteries,	200 00	193 73	100 00
Library,	100 00	100 00	100 00
	<u>27,411 13</u>	<u>28,177 68</u>	<u>20,162 30</u>

In making up the above statement of estimated expenses for the ensuing year, we have aimed to place the amount on the lowest basis. The State and County taxes, the annual payment and interest on town debt and school money, making about fifteen of the twenty thousand are permanent fixtures which cannot by law be varied. The \$750 for paupers we consider a very low estimate compared with past bills. We estimate the Bridge expenses about one-half the usual appropriation, from the fact that nine-tenths of the bridges in town have been rebuilt within the past two years, and think we are safe in saying that as a whole, they have not been in so good condition for a long time. Little was done to the highways after the October freshet, 1869; consequently we were compelled to exceed the appropriations last year. Judging by the condition of the roads last fall, and the favorable opening of spring, the amount recommended will be amply sufficient for another year.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

CHARLES FISHER, } Selectmen
FREDERICK WATKINS, } of
NEHEMIAH ROYCE, } Walpole.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The following report is respectfully submitted by the Superintending School Committee:

The amount of money raised by the town at its annual meeting was \$3000; in addition to this, District No. 1 raised \$500 to support the High School.

For appropriation of money to each district, number of scholars in town, dog tax, &c., see report of Selectmen.

SPECIAL REPORT.

DISTRICT NO. 2.—This is one of the most difficult schools to teach successfully in town, owing in part to the changing condition of the inhabitants, which in many cases produces a laxity of interest incompatible with success. In many cases proper school books are not furnished by the parents because their stay is temporary. One third of the names on the register this year will not appear again, and so on from year to year.

The summer and fall terms were taught by Miss MARY WELLS. At the commencement the school appeared remarkably well; the discipline certainly could not have been better. The teacher was taken sick and left the school before the term was through. She resumed her duties in the fall and discharged them acceptably to the committee, and to all concerned as far as known.

Feeling it was necessary to have an experienced teacher for the winter, some applications for approbation were rejected, which put the Prudential Committee to considerable trouble in procuring one, but the trouble was amply compensated in the services of Mr. CHARLES FISHER, who taught the school acceptably nine

weeks. The progress made during this short term was very good in all the branches taught. The reading of the older pupils in this school was as good as any in town. The girls enlivened the examination by rhetorical recitations, which were very commendable. A few visitors showed their good will by their presence.

DISTRICT No 3.—The Summer school was taught by Miss JULIETTE CHAPPELL. The characteristics of a good school were found here. A class of large girls gave it character and furnished scope for the teacher's abilities, while the government of the school was comparatively easy.

The Prudential Committee made commendable effort to obtain a competent teacher for the winter school, engaging a student from Dartmouth College, Mr. GEO. H. DUNLAP. Referring to the report of District No. 12, it may be seen that there was early in the term a strong reason for fearing that the school would not prove a prosperous one. The demands of a teacher are numerous, and, if he departs from wisdom in any respect, he suffers as does his school. A misstep is quickly challenged and but little charity or extenuation is allowed. With insufficient confidence in his ability to command, an abrupt attempt to do away with whispering in the fifth week, produced demoralization, and several scholars left the school. The school being in this unsatisfactory condition, Mr. D. was advised to retire from his position, and the school was finished by Miss HATTIE ADAMS of Langdon, in a quiet and satisfactory manner.

DISTRICT No. 4.—This school requires more than a passing notice. The school year consisted of twenty-four weeks, twelve of summer and twelve of winter. The parents of this district have constituted themselves a committee of vigilance for the educational safety of their children, which should be a model for every district in town.

The Summer school was taught by Miss EMILY L. PHELPS, who came to us recommended by her brother, who taught the school two winters ago, with good success. On our first visit to the school our impressions were not without some solicitude for the success of the school. Our second visit did not strengthen our hopes.—Some suggestions were made for the better management of the school which were not fully heeded, consequently the school at the close did not exhibit any marked degree of excellence. The teach-

er no doubt labored hard and meant well, although the school was not up to our standard of excellence, it should not be considered a failure. A good feeling seemed to exist with teacher, parents and children, if the number of parents and others present at the close of the school, together with the bountiful collation were any criteria. The mothers seemed to vie with each other in furnishing the best, and greatest number of viands for the occasion, till the tables literally groaned under their weight. Some delay was occasioned on account of a shower, but when all was ready, an exercise commenced in which old and young took part. At the termination it was conceded that the juveniles bore off the palm, being more prompt, more energetic and more enduring.— After eating, drinking and chatting an hour or so we retired, *feeling our duties fulfilled.*

The Winter term was taught by HENRY D. PIERCE of Dartmouth College, who taught the school one year ago, a faithful and competent teacher. The scholars and teacher at the commencement being acquaintances and mutual friends, had nothing to do but commence work with plans all laid at the beginning. With commendable zeal and patient industry on the part of both teacher and pupils, they arrived at a profitable consumation of their labors at the close. The quiet demeanor, the willing, ready and cheerful spirit exhibited by the pupils at their exmination, gave us much pleasure and won our esteem. Spelling received considerable attention during the term. The rhetorical exercises were had on the evening of the last day. On the whole the school was a model.

DISTRICT NO. 5.—The Prudential Committee very wisely expended the money apportioned to this district, for a Summer and Fall school, having none during the winter. He secured the services of a veteran teacher, Miss MARTHA CHURCH, who records herself as having previously taught 147 months. Number of scholars during the two terms were respectively 9 and 8, with an average attendance of 7 4-5 and 7 3-5. No tardiness was reported. By reference to our report of last year we find the number of scholars to have been 7 and 4, with an average attendance of 3½, during the winter, when only one scholar was reported present, the last eight days of the term; and 62 instances of tardiness were also reported, with this small average of attendance. This variation of attendance the past two years in one of our sparsely

settled rural districts, furnishes an interesting field of study. We are not aware of any sudden immigration here, and think this variation can be accounted for more easily through the operation of moral than physical influence; an inference better understood and appreciated by your committee and the inhabitants of the district than is possible by any one else, unless previously informed.

DISTRICT NO. 6.—This school was taught during the year, 27 weeks in all, by Miss MARY J. B. FAY, who has been favorably reported several years past. It suffices to say that her well earned reputation as an honest, faithful and industrious teacher suffered not by this year's experience. The scholars are well disposed—the parents considerate and helpful. The genuine character of the teacher and confidence inspired by long, mutual acquaintance of teacher, parents and pupils always insures a good school in this district, when Miss FAY stands at the helm.

DISTRICT NO. 7.—This is the most juvenile school we have in town, outside of District No. 1, where graded schools prevail. The average age of all the scholars during the year is not quite *seven*. The Prudential Committee of this district, appreciating the extreme youthfulness of its pupils, wisely expended the money entrusted to his care, for the support of a summer and fall school, having none in the winter. This district being located almost above the clouds, in that part of our town, known as Derry Hill, is especially unfavorable for a winter school of *infants*.

During all the time allotted for educational purposes in this district, Miss ALICE F. HINCKLEY taught. She won the love of the little ones—the respect of the parents, and approval of your committee.

DISTRICT NO. 8.—By reference to our report of this school last year, we find some irregularities recorded. As small schools afford only few items for your committee to report, we are eager to seize this opportunity, and say that everything was done according to law. The first term was under the charge of Miss LIZZIE S. HITCHCOCK, who taught a school of five (5) scholars. This was her first school in Walpole, and an exceedingly small field was afforded for any display of qualifications pertaining to a good teacher. The school appeared well when we visited it—the scholars were orderly and the recitations prompt and satisfactory.

During the fall term Miss JENNIE M. MERRIAM taught eleven scholars, whose average attendance was a little over eight. It is always advisable that the teacher be thoroughly informed in the lessons that may come before her, so that in case of necessity she can render valuable assistance to pupils, who will sometimes become embarrassed in an attempt to solve a simple question in mental arithmetic! "A word to the wise &c."

DISTRICT NO. 9.—The summer term was under the instruction of Miss JENNIE M. MERRIAM. We visited this school but once, and found things in a satisfactory condition at this time. The register shows no marks of tardiness, which is a merit well worth recording. The attendance was also very good for this district, the average being eighteen, while the whole number was twenty. Forty-seven citizens visited the school. No complaints have been heard, and we therefore have reason for making favorable mention of the school.

JOHN L. HOUGHTON took charge of the winter school. He has an established reputation as a teacher in town. The examination passed off pleasantly, in presence of a large number of the friends of the school. Map-drawing was attended to in the study of Geography, very good specimens of which adorned the black-board. The classes in arithmetic were quite large, but not so advanced as in several other districts in town. There are no details of the school which seem of sufficient importance to record.

DISTRICT NO. 10.—The summer school was taught by Miss EMMA F. HOLMES, who is one of the most advanced members of our high school. This was her first attempt at teaching, and she proved faithful to her charge.

The winter school was taught by Mr. S. R. TOWNE, a student from Dartmouth. He is an accomplished scholar and teacher. The older portion of the scholars seemed to realize that their opportunities were unusual, and made good use of them. There was a class of six who studied algebra, and one of four in philosophy. A class of three were found familiar with the National Arithmetic.

The thorough and careful manner in which everything was investigated in the various branches will prove a lasting benefit to all who enjoyed the privileges of the school.

DISTRICT No. 11.—This is a small school. In summer the scholars are small and few in number, consequently the duties of a teacher are not peculiarly trying,—nevertheless, the teacher should not be destitute of those qualifications required by the statute.

The summer term, of eight weeks, was taught by Miss ELLA A. SMITH of Chesterfield, who, as far as known, discharged her duties acceptably to parents and pupils. At the close there appeared to have been a fair degree of improvement made, but nothing meriting especial notice. This was her first term.

The winter school was taught by Miss EMILY M. GREENE, of Alstead, who is a teacher of much experience, having taught several terms in different schools in this town previously, and in all, in and out of town, fifty-four months. The winter term opened a broader field for the display of labor and skill. It was evident, at the close of the school, that teacher and pupils had been untiring in their efforts to make the school a good one, and they succeeded. The school room was clean and tastefully decorated, showing that the hands, of the pupils, had been directed to beautifying rather than marring it. The rhetorical and other exercises were creditable to the pupils, who all took part.

The parents, by their presence, manifested their interest. The attendance was very good. Twelve of the fourteen pupils not tardy. The absences were principally from one family. We think all were satisfied.

DISTRICT No. 12.—There were three terms of school in this district, taught by three different teachers. Miss ELIZA O. SABIN commenced the summer term with an evident determination of doing the best she could for the school. But her efforts did not seem well directed, and after continuing six weeks, the school being found unprofitable, was closed.

The fall term was taught by Miss GREENE, who has been reported in District No. 11, as the winter teacher. She has before successfully managed this school, and her resolute and persevering manner soon brought it into a better state of discipline, though some severe measures were found necessary to establish her authority.

The winter term was in charge of Miss CHAPPELL, who is reported in District No. 3, for the summer term. Miss C. has also

previously given satisfaction in this district, as its teacher. This was one of her best efforts. Speaking of whispering, she remarked, "I will not have it,"—and of course it was abolished. Such a spirit is soon understood by pupils, and, in a teacher, is in happy contrast with the timid remark of the unsuccessful teacher in District No. 3, who said while speaking of the same subject, "I fear I can not prevent whispering." This spirit is also immediately discovered by the pupil, and advantage taken of it, to the great detriment of all concerned. "Clear grit," says a popular lecturer, "we must have in these days of ours, or our days are numbered."

DISTRICT No. 13.—During the summer this school was taught by a rare teacher, possessing good native talent and well educated. She had resources within herself whence she could draw facts and inferences to amply feed the minds of the *eleven* scholars that waited on her instructions. Text books were her guide, a well stored mind, her never failing spring of thought and information for her pupils. We have not had a teacher in our town, outside of District No. 1, with whom we have been so well satisfied as with Miss ADDIE B. SMITH of Templeton, Mass., who taught this school during the summer term. We only hope our Prudential committee will be on the alert to secure her services for the coming year.

The winter term, under the charge of Miss M. ADDIE MORSE, was not successful. She has a good record to refer to in her past experience of 63 months, as a common school teacher. We cannot attribute to her, every cause for failure of this school to meet our modest expectations. We are nevertheless inclined to think that *veteran* teachers, as well as others, must look well to their laurels in this day of Normal schools, and not rely too much on past renown.

DISTRICT No. 14.—In this district the scholars are mostly quite young. The school year was divided into three terms:—summer, autumn and winter. Miss JULIA WELLS was the teacher for the summer term. This was her first trial. At the time of our first visit the school appeared very well, and the teacher appeared very lady-like, giving us strong hopes of success. At the close the recitations exhibited a fair degree of improvement, but nothing remarkable. A feeble antagonism to good order was noticed on the part of some of the pupils.

The fall term was taught by Miss BARRY of Rockingham. She was very industrious during her short term, and taught a very good school.

Miss MIRA JEFTS of Langdon, taught the winter term. She seemed to possess the elements of a good teacher. At our first visit she seemed to be laying plans for future success. At our last visit the school appeared well, and the pupils had made fine progress. The recitation in geography, for the age of the pupils, was excellent. There were several small pupils as seen by the register, who left the school some three weeks before the close, which made the average attendance rather small.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

Walpole was one of the competing towns for the location of the Normal School upon its first introduction into this State. The act of Legislature of last June establishing this Institution and inviting bids from towns and individuals, was responded to by liberal offers from Mount Vernon, Walpole Fisherville and Plymouth. The noble generosity of our fellow townsman, Levi Lyman, Esq., who engaged to give to this object thirty thousand dollars, awakened the public spirit of our citizens and the sum of forty thousand dollars in cash with a site for the buildings, valued at two thousand dollars, were tendered to the State. The Board of Trustees saw fit to locate the School at Plymouth, but by a unanimous vote recommended to the Legislature to accept the bid of Walpole for the location of a second Normal School.

GENERAL REMARKS.

About this season, every year, some hundreds of persons in this State are exercising their brains on the old threadbare subject of common schools. Some will say, "this harping on one string, so much and so long, becomes stale—tis like the labor of the mountain, which only brought forth a mouse;" yet every one wants to see the school report, everybody reads it, old and young, teacher and parent, but we are sorry to say, most will lay it aside caring very little about it afterward.

"Harping upon one string," has sometimes produced great results. It has brought about some of the greatest political and

moral results and revolutions the world ever witnessed, both in this country and the old world. In a minor point of view, many of the suggestions made yearly in relation to our common schools are heeded and put in practice, and the result is better schools and better teachers. To say the least, they exercise a wholesome influence over our teachers if they have any pride. No teachers possessing ordinary ambition, are pleased to see an unfavorable report of their schools, and great is their mortification to know that their numerous friends read the same report. So if no other good is the result of our annual report, the labor is not wholly lost. It can also be seen by school reports in this town, how much hard earned money goes for a fraction of its value, by being expended in small schools, where by the uniting of contiguous districts, where convenient, the whole may be saved, one half more schooling had and of much better quality. It can also be seen, how much more good can be done and money utilized, by parents keeping their children in school every day.

In one district the average attendance would have been nearly up to the number of pupils in school, had it not been for one family of three children, who absented themselves to go to a dancing school, choosing to educate their heels rather than their brains.— From twenty to thirty per cent. of the value of school money is lost by absences.

The average qualifications of teachers does not keep pace with the average advancement of pupils. During the past year several applicants have been discarded for want of educational qualifications demanded by the laws of this State, while others ought to have been for want of these qualifications. Other qualifications than educational cannot always be known by the committee till after trial, such as the exercise of proper judgment in any and all emergencies that may arise. In Germany, all teachers, from the primary schools upward, must be graduates from their first institutions of learning. We do not expect such a grade of teachers here, but we do want teachers well qualified in all the branches required to be taught in our common schools. It is poor economy to hire cheap teachers for small children, even beginners.

Some teachers talk too much and some too little. When too little, the scholars are not well fed. When too much their words fall like grain sown in a windy day; too much often falls in one place, and in coming forth is choked for want of room. The right

word at the right time is just what is wanted and no more.—Teachers are not always over careful in correcting bad grammar and the bad pronounciation of words in the conversation of their pupils ; this is part of their duty. Teachers themselves many times carelessly practice the same errors. A celebrated Irish advocate was walking one day with a friend who was extremely punctilious in his conversation ; hearing a person near him say curosimy for curiosity, he exclaimed, “ How that man murders the English language ! ” “ Not so bad,” replied the lawyer, “ he has only knocked one i out.” When teachers use such expressions as the following, “ John, you hadn’t ought to do so,” “ Emma has wrote her copy the best of the two,”—“ Frank done all his sums afore recess,” and other expressions equally bad, it might be thought that more *eyes* were out than one. Ungrammatical expressions and bad pronounciation mar the beauty of language and need prompt correction as much as bad spelling or evil doing.

Too little attention is paid to the study of English Grammar, in most of our schools. Twenty years ago all of the older pupils in our schools, were found in the grammar class, now not one half. It should be otherwise.

Penmanship does not receive the attention due to its importance. In looking over the writing books, where an attempt is made to write in school, corrections are seldom found made by the teacher and consequently very little improvement is seen. Why not give a branch of education so frequently used during life more attention. The penmanship of to-day is not as good as it was half a century ago. The reason is, it does not receive half the attention it demands.

The spelling book, after being hidden for a number of years, has again come to the surface. For the past two years, there has been a revival of the old custom of having evening schools for spelling in many of the schools. This is one step in the right direction. Let this feature be nursed and kept warm for years to come.

An attempt at rhetorical exercises has been made in most if not all of the schools in town ; but it is feared the main object of such exercises in many cases is wholly lost. In declamation the tendency is to select something odd or funny, in order to get up a laugh, without any regard to propriety in some instances. The teachers should either select the pieces or approve of the selec-

tions made by their pupils for declamations. Declamation is a profitable exercise when proper attention is given to it. It strengthens the memory in the committing, it gives the pupil a proper idea of the force and use of language and begets confidence in the delivery. And moreover, a long practice in declamation, does more to make a good reader than most other exercises combined.

Composition, so reluctantly practiced by most pupils, is of no small importance. The school room is the proper place to study the elements of composition. No person, however much he may know, otherwise, will ever make a good writer, a good teacher, or easy talker, unless he gives some attention to the rules of syntax.

It is hoped another year will not pass with out making zealous efforts to procure "Mural Maps" in all our schools. Children from eight to ten years of age can readily point to any considerable town, river, mountain, lake or sea, by only a few week's drill under a competent teacher. The lessons are learned more readily, the impressions left on the mind more permanent and the saving of time one half.

The meetings of the Common School Association have numbered less the past winter than usual, but the meetings held were well attended and spirited. Let them be more the coming winter.— See that your best man is selected for Prudential Committee in every district. Remember that the success of your schools in a great measure depends on such selection. In a former report it was suggested that the Prudential Committee should consult with the Supt. Committee, before hiring teachers, especially those who have taught in town. Its importance is obvious.

We have cause of congratulation to be able to say, that there have been several superior teachers in our schools the past year, consequently we have had superior schools. Some have been passable and *three* have been decidedly *abnormal*, perhaps we ought to say decidedly worthless. The cause of failure of *two* of the latter was wholly owing to poor teachers, and the other to several destroying agencies, among them were the incompetency of teacher, the perversity of scholars and the ruinous course of many of the parents. The habit, of many teachers, allowing their pupils to communicate with each other, by whispering, is the foundation of three-fourths of all the trouble in our schools. It would take stronger arguments than any yet heard for us to think differently. Remember it takes but few words, in many instances to deluge a peaceful land in blood and ruin;—so one illy advised word or deed in a school district, ruins a whole term of school.

Enough has been said already, if the suggestions are heeded, if not, more would be time wasted.

A. P. RICHARDSON,	} Town Superintending
GEORGE ALDRICH,	
GEORGE A. BLAKE.	} School Committee.

Table No. 1.

SUMMER AND FALL SCHOOLS, 1870.

Districts,.....	2	2	3	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	10	10	11	12	12	13	14	14
Length of school in weeks,.....																					
Wages of female teacher per mo. in'd'g b'd			\$8	12	10	12	9	6	7	13	8	12	10	10	10	8	6	10	10	8	12
No. of scholars four years and upwards,			24	27	18	25	16	16	24	24	22	32	35	20	24	24	22	33	24	26	19
Average daily attendance,.....			11 $\frac{3}{4}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{2}{3}$	8 $\frac{7}{8}$	10 $\frac{5}{6}$	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	14	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{4}{5}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	14
No. of scholars between 4 and 16,.....			11	25	9	9	12	10	10	12	5	11	20	16	7	17	22	12	16	16	18
No. of scholars over 16,.....			2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of tardinesses,.....			7	4	0	0	0	3	38	94	1	9	0	11	5	5	8	10	13	4	1
No. not absent one-half day,.....			1	5	6	7	7	5	2	0	4	1	4	12	0	10	11	2	15	4	18
No. not tardy,.....			8	22	9	8	7	9	4	4	4	8	20	2	5	11	13	8	4	1	1
No. not absent or tardy,.....			1	5	6	7	7	5	2	0	4	2	4	2	0	2	1	2	4	3	2
No. of visits by Supt. committee,.....			2	3	2	2	2	1	0	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	2	0	2	2	1
No. of visits by Prudential committee,...			0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	20
No. of visits by citizens and others,.....			11	30	15	26	11	11	26	11	35	47	18	0	6	3	28	10	11	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Months previously taught by teacher,....			17	24	144	147	20	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	2	12	9	0	0	3	52	18			

Table No. 2.
WINTER SCHOOLS, 1870-1.

DISTRICTS,.....	2	3	4	6	9	10	11	12	13	14
Length of school in weeks,.....	9	10	12	12	11	12	9	8 $\frac{2}{3}$	8	12
Wages of male teacher per month including board,.....	\$60	32	51		40	45.33				
Wages of female teacher per month including board,.....		\$32		22			35	34	38	30
Scholars four years of age and upwards,.....	45	20	36	11	31	25	14	21	25	19
Average daily attendance,.....	38	13	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
No. of scholars between four and sixteen,.....	44	11	26	9	26	20	10	20	19	18
No. of scholars over sixteen,.....	1	9	10	2	5	5	4	1	6	1
No. of tardinesses,.....	88	44	6	0	43	18	5	72	34	0
No. not absent one-half day,.....	0	3	12	6	6	4	7	1	6	3
No. not tardy,.....	16	8	27	0	24	14	12	5	17	19
No. not absent or tardy,.....	0	3	10	6	6	2	6	0	6	3
No. of visits by Supt. committee,.....	2	4	4	1	2	2	2	3	4	3
No. of visits by Prudential committee,.....	0	1	4	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
No. of visits by citizens,.....	17	21	74	17	32	22	37	18	11	19
Months previously taught by teacher,.....	20	28	3	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	18	52	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	63	4

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, NO. 1.

For the purpose of this report I deem it more appropriate and important to review such details only as immediately affect the interests of the schools, and as are necessary to give a fair representation of their condition in this district.

There is little which can be called new to be reported. The schools go on year by year, in much the same way, constantly seeking improvement with the increasing experience and resources which time brings to them.

Our committee for hiring teachers, alive to the importance of securing first-class teachers, conferred with none others knowingly. They secured no one for any of the eight terms of the year whose services were not solicited for a succeeding term; and all but one held their respective positions two or more successive terms. There have been a series of as successful schools in this district, during the year, in the three departments, as is often the fortune of villages with a like system of graded schools to enjoy. The High School has been characterized by its general good order and the advancement of its pupils; the Intermediate department for its commendable progress in all the branches taught; and the Primary for its enthusiasm, its variety of useful and interesting instruction, and for the high sense of honor with which the interests of the school have been guarded. The last examination was a proud day for the Primary school, for both parents and children.

The continued good standing of the High school has been recognized by pupils not residing in the district, to an extent never before realized in two terms. At our extremely low rate of tuition, there has been over one hundred and twenty-five dollars received from those who have sought the benefits of the school. The district is now free from the embarrassment of debt, and its future is full of promise.

It is our aim to defend and uphold all our schools, which are the basis of so much power for good, to improve their processes, making them as efficient and practicable as possible. We listen with impatience, if at all, to the peccadilloes and often fancied wrongs which are presented by the complaining and jealous.

The united and unqualified support of parents is as essential to successful schools as accomplished teachers and proper accommodations for pupils.

A. P. RICHARDSON,
Supt. Committee for Dist. No. 1.

Table No. 3.

DISTRICT NO. 1, 1870-1.

	Spring Term.			Fall Term.			Winter Term.		
	Intermediate.	Primary.	High School.	Intermediate.	Primary.	High School.	Intermediate.	Primary.	High School.
Length of school in weeks,.....	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Wages of male teacher,.....	\$36	32		\$75	36	32	\$75	36	32
Wages of female teacher.....	31	45		43	37	45	33	36	48
Number of scholars four years old and upward,.....	26	36		33	31	38	30	30	38
Average daily attendance,.....	31	45		27	37	45	23	36	48
Number of scholars between four and sixteen,.....	0	0		16	0	0	10	0	0
Number of scholars over sixteen,.....	4	6		0	17	76	3	40	4
Number of tardinesses,.....	6	1		8	5	3	9	7	4
Number not absent one-half day,.....	30	40		43	30	18	31	19	44
Number not tardy,.....	6	3		8	0	2	9	0	40
Number not absent or tardy,.....	3	3		5	3	4	3	3	3
Number of visits by Supt. committee,.....	3	0		3	1	0	0	1	1
Number of visits by Prudential committee,.....	20	34		35	27	44	23	19	40
Number of visits by citizens,.....	11	9		42	22	5	45	25	8
Number of months previously taught by teacher,.....									

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS.—1870-1.

SUMMER AND FALL SCHOOLS.

WINTER SCHOOLS.

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Teachers.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Teachers.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Prudential Comm's.</i>
High School, Intermediate,	Curtis R. Crowell, Miss Mary P. Jeffs, Miss Anna J. Hitchcock,	Westminster, Vt., Langdon, N. H., Walpole, N. H.,	Curtis R. Crowell, Miss Anna J. Hitchcock,	Westminster, Vt., Walpole, N. H.,	Charles Fisher, H. A. Hitchcock, J. B. Clarke,
Primary,	Miss Emily H. Vilas, Miss M. Nelly Lovell, Miss Mary Wells,	Bellows Falls, Vt., Alstead, N. H., Athens, Vt.,	Miss M. Nelly Lovell, Charles Fisher, Geo. H. Dunlap,	Alstead, N. H., Walpole, N. H., Dartmouth College, Langdon, N. H.,	Amasa Plastridge, Isaiah Davis, George G. Barnet, Charles E. Watkins, J. B. Fay, Isaac Pratt, Elmore E. Merriam,
No. 2,	Miss Juliette Chappell,	Walpole, N. H.,	Miss Hattie Adams, Henry D. Pierce, No Winter school,	Dartmouth College, Walpole, N. H.,	
No. 3	Miss Emily L. Phelps.	Sharon, Vt.,	Miss Mary J. B. Fay, No Winter school,		
No. 4,	Miss Martha Church,	Westminster, Vt.,			
No. 5,	Miss Mary J. B. Fay,	Walpole, N. H.,			
No. 6,	Miss Alice F. Hinkley,	"			
No. 7,	Miss Lizzie S. Hitchcock,	"			
No. 8,	Miss Jennie M. Merriam,	"			
No. 9,	Miss Jennie M. Merriam,	"	John L. Houghton, S. R. Towne,	Walpole, N. H., Dartmouth College,	Josiah W. Batchelder, Caleb Foster, George H. Angier, Matthew Tole,
No. 10,	Miss Emma F. Holmes,	"	Miss Emily M. Greene, Miss Juliette Chappell,	Alstead, N. H., Walpole, N. H.,	
No. 11,	Miss Ella A. Smith,	Walpole, N. H.,			
No. 12,	Miss Eliza O. Sabin,	Alstead, N. H.,			
No. 13	Miss Emily M. Greene,	Templeton, Mass.,	Miss M. Addie Morse, Miss Myra Jeffs.	Alstead, N. H., Langdon, N. H.,	Horatio N. Fletcher, Tyler Pierce, Moses Elliot.
No. 14,	Miss Addie B. Smith, Miss Julia M. Wells, Miss Mary A. Barry.	Walpole N. H., Saxtons River, Vt.,			

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE TOWN LIBRARY, 1870.

The Committee would report that the records of the past year show a gratifying increase in the use of the Library. The number of volumes taken out from March 1, 1870, to March 1, 1871, was 3,712, being an increase of 294 over the previous year, and we think, without doubt, the largest annual circulation since the establishment of the Library. The number of volumes added during the year was 119, of which 94 were purchased with the annual appropriation and 25 were presented. The Library now numbers 1,610 volumes, showing an increase of about 600 volumes, or more than 50 per cent., since January 1, 1866.

The thanks of the town are due to the donors of books. The committee would invite further donations of books of permanent value. We would especially welcome any works relating to the local history of the town, county or state, any volumes published in this town during the early part of the century, and files of local newspapers, particularly of early date. We believe that a Town Library offers the fittest, as well as safest depository for works of such character, and that much interesting material for history may thus be preserved, which would otherwise be lost.

The Library has been well cared for during the past year by the Librarian, Miss LOUISA PIERCE, by whom the rules have been strictly enforced, and the books kept neatly covered and arranged. The account shows 330 volumes to have been newly covered during the year. The fines collected have been sufficient to meet the incidental expenses and keep the books in good repair. The entire annual appropriation is thus reserved for the purchase of new books.

The subject of Free Libraries has received increased attention of late and their value is now generally recognized. We believe the time is not far distant when they will be considered as indispensable as the Public school as a means of education. The past few years have witnessed their establishment in many of the towns of New England. In most instances the expense of starting the Libraries has been borne by a few public-spirited citizens, but the towns themselves gladly assume the burden of their maintenance and increase.

In recommending the appropriation of one hundred dollars for

the ensuing year, we believe we express the general desire that our Library may be enriched from year to year, by the addition of the choicest publications in the various departments of literature.

GEORGE HUNTINGTON, } Committee on the
GEO. A. BLAKE, }
THOMAS B. PECK, } Town Library.

Walpole, March 1871.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES.

Balance on hand March 1, 1870,	3 51
Appropriated by the town, March 1870,	100 00
Amount collected for fines and use of Library	
by strangers,	29 39—\$132 90
Paid express on books,	2 55
“ for stationery,	4 45
“ for paper for covering books,	2 50
“ for binding and repairing 52 Volumes,	11 52
“ for new books, 94 Volumes,	105 72—\$126 74
Balance on hand March 1, 1871,	\$6 16

